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**Assembly
California Legislature**

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February 26, 2003

Mr. R. Kirk Lindsey, Chair
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2233 (MS-52)
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Lindsey:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) request for an amendment to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and AB 3090 reimbursement for project expenditures initially borne by the MTA.

The requested STIP amendment and AB 3090 reimbursement would permit construction of almost \$1.5 billion in transportation improvements in Los Angeles County. Specifically, the requested state funding of \$332 million would permit MTA to purchase low-emission articulated buses, and begin construction on the San Fernando Valley East/West Bus Rapid Transit and Los Angeles Eastside Light Rail Transit projects.

The East/West Bus Rapid Transit project is of particular interest to me because it will provide a much-needed service to the residents of the San Fernando Valley, a community that I represent here in Sacramento. The San Fernando Valley has waited a long time to obtain a reliable form of transportation that is a viable alternative to the area's congested freeways and road system. It is my fear that a delay in the project due to the suspension of the Traffic Congestion Relief Program funds could cause the project costs to increase substantially when new bids are requested, or jeopardize the project's final realization.

The MTA's proposal is a creative solution that enables these projects to be delivered now while the state repayment is deferred until FY 2006 and 2007. I strongly support the approval of these actions by the Commission. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

Sincerely,



FRAN PAVLEY
Assemblymember, 41st District